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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** August 26, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The Mt. Hood National Forest (the Forest) is soliciting comments on a proposal at Timberline Lodge Ski Area to replace the existing Pucci chairlift within the special use permit area as shown in the attached map. The Forest has identified you as an individual, agency, group, or organization that might be interested in the project proposal. The Forest completed an internal review of the project proposal and has identified that this project falls within a category of actions under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 220.6 that may be excluded from documentation in either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement, so long as project analysis results in no degree of uncertainty of effect to potential extraordinary circumstances that may be present. The project is consistent with category 36 CFR § 220.6(e)(3): *approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land*, where a decision would be documented in a decision memo.

The existing chairlift has met its operational life expectancy and no longer meets beginner and intermediate ability level guest expectations. The existing Pucci chairlift would be replaced by a high-speed, detachable-grip, four-person chairlift. Detachable-grip chairlift technology allows the chair to move slower during guest loading and unloading at the lift terminals and move quicker between lift terminals, reducing the overall chairlift riding time for the guest, and greatly improving the loading and unloading efficiencies. The top and bottom terminals would also be replaced, with the new installation in the same location as the existing terminals. The project would replace the existing Pucci chairlift with new chairlift technology in the same location to the extent practicable.

To minimize ground disturbance, the project proposes to utilize helicopters to move material, and reuse eleven of the twelve existing chairlift tower foundations. Two new chairlift tower locations with concrete foundations would be installed. Ground disturbance within the project area is expected to be approximately two acres. However, structural testing to the existing towers may result in a need to install new tower foundations to some towers. If this occurs, ground disturbance would be increased due to the construction need for access routes, and would result in less than five acres of disturbance overall.

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of or have concerns regarding the project above, please send us your scoping comments in writing before September 30, 2019. Electronic comments may be submitted to [comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood@usda.gov](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood@usda.gov). Written comments can be submitted to the Zigzag Ranger District, ATTN: Pucci Chairlift Replacement Project; 70220 E Highway 26, Zigzag, OR 97049. The office business hours for those who want to submit hand-delivered comments to the address above are: 7:45 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Sunday, excluding holidays. The office is closed daily from noon to 1:00 P.M. during the lunch hour. For additional information about this project,



please contact Scott Kaden, Special Uses Permit Administrator by phone at (541) 352-1245 or by email at [scott.kaden@usda.gov](mailto:scott.kaden@usda.gov).

Thank you for your interest in the management of your public lands. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Richard Periman*  
RICHARD PERIMAN  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure 1

cc: Bill Westbrook, Scott Kaden, Amber Sprinkle, and Debbie Ortiz